

## "UIA was a Major Factor in Saving Iraq on Levels of Security and Stability"

### H.E. Alhakim Announces Start of New Stage of UIA



In the Name of Allah the Most Merciful the Most Compassionate

Dear honorable members of the United Iraqi Alliance: Peace be upon you,

As the current term for the Council of Representatives (CoR) is coming to an end, all political parties are looking ahead to the next with more interest and preparing to actively participate in the upcoming elections. The UIA, being the largest slate in the CoR, has played an active and pivotal role in maintaining the democratic and constitutional experience in Iraq by not monopolizing power as a majority in the CoR, forming a unified national government, and being open to all political powers so that they participate in the cabinet.

The coherence of the UIA and its activity was a major factor in saving Iraq from the hazardous challenges and crises on the levels of security and stability and confronting the terrorism of Al-Qaeda, the former regime's remnants, and the outlaws. Also, the UIA steadily sought to restore sovereignty and remove Iraq from the Chapter Seven Resolution of the United Nations Security Council.

The UIA, through the unified national

government, sought to reactivate the economy and open Iraq to the international community, as Iraq witnessed official visits by many world leaders. Also, the UIA enhanced security performance, supported the Iraqi forces and increased their salaries, improved services, helped to make the last provincial elections successful, legislated many laws in the CoR, went ahead in national reconciliation, and placed the bases for reconstruction.

In spite of all these achievements, Iraq is still facing numerous challenges on all levels of the government. These include rebuilding the governmental institutions, implementing the rule of law, respecting the people and providing them with basic services, enhancing national unity, defeating the powers of darkness, takfir (accusing people of infidelity), and outlaws, and placing Iraq in its proper position in the international community.

For that, the UIA must preserve its unity, maintain its movement, and must be committed to its national policies and open to all positive political powers to cooperate in order to rebuild Iraq and maintain its unity, prosperity, and stability.

For this purpose, the UIA must continue its march and advance its participation to achieve its national goals. I am asking Sheikh Hornam Hamoudi to represent me in the role of activating the current UIA and in forming the new stage alliance. Also, I ask all of the UIA's members, and particularly the honorable Prime Minister, to fully cooperate with Sheikh Hamoudi in order to rebuild the UIA and plot its policies for the upcoming elections for the same objective spirit and noble national goals on which it was founded.

Abdul-Aziz Alhakim  
Leader of the United Iraqi Alliance  
May 13, 2009

### VP Mahdi and PM Almaliki Discuss Latest Developments



Vice President Adil Abdul-Mahdi received Prime Minister Nouri Almaliki in the Presidential Palace in Baghdad on May 10, 2009. During the meeting they discussed latest developments in the security, economic and political fields. Also, they discussed their recent official visits to the United Kingdom and France and its results and the agreements that have been signed with these countries' large companies. Another point of discussion was the forming of a new law supporting the private sector, to have the Council of Representatives' (CoR) endorsement, in order to offer a legal and financial cover once the foreign companies begin working in Iraq.

VP Abdul-Mahdi stressed that his visit to France has opened a new horizon in the Iraq-France relations, considering that both his visits and the PM's were very productive for the Iraqi people. PM Almaliki stated that Iraq's call for foreign companies to invest in the country will help in many directions, such as participating in rebuilding Iraq and opening new chapters in the cooperative relations between Iraq and other countries.

In the meeting, they also discussed the new mechanisms for the United Iraqi Alliance (UIA), and how to expand them in order to be open for all Iraqis. PM Almaliki stressed developing the UIA. VP Abdul-Mahdi also stressed the importance of the UIA and the quality of being open on all

## Minister Alzubaidi Meets Bulgarian President



Finance Minister Baker Jaber Alzubaidi met with the Bulgarian President on May 16, 2009, during his visit to Bulgaria. In the meeting they discussed the bilateral relations and the issues of mutual interest. The Bulgarian President welcomed Minister Alzubaidi and his accompanied delegation. He also stressed Bulgaria's eagerness to open new channels with Iraq, particularly on the economic and financial levels. He mentioned that the Bulgarian government supports the Iraqi government in its efforts to restore its natural position in the international community.

Also, the Bulgarian President expressed his government's readiness to become involved in the rebuilding of Iraq. He also stated that the Bulgarian companies are willing to go to Iraq in order to build hotels, housing units, highways and roads, bridges, hospitals, and carry out water projects. Minister Alzubaidi thanked the warm welcome and said that this visit will open new cooperative opportunities between the two countries.

## Finance Minister Visits Al-Rafidain Bank

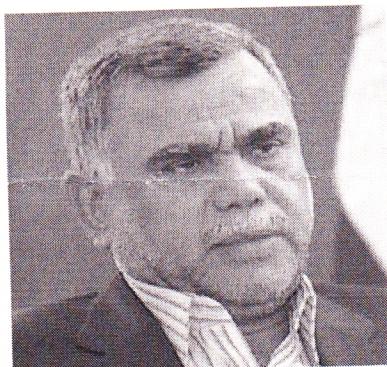


Finance Minister Baker Jaber Alzubaidi visited Al-Rafidain Bank on May 4, 2009. The visit was to closely observe the bank's

services and see how to best improve and develop the bank's facilities. Minister Alzubaidi said that there should be a focus on the newest and best technologies in banks in order to help people and, at the same time, make work more efficient. The Minister also wanted to continue the fight against corruption.

Minister Alzubaidi congratulated the bank's employees for the great gains that were made during the last fiscal year, which was some \$700 million dollars. He also mentioned the use of the unified card in Al-Rafidain Bank's branches all over the country. Also, he said that the VISA Company signed contacts with numerous banks in order to facilitate its use by clients.

## Mr. Al-Amiri: We Are in Agreement with ISCI



The Badr Organization denied press reports claiming the split of the organization from the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq (ISCI) and announcing the establishment of a new independent political movement away from the Shahid Al-Mihrab movement. Mr. Hadi Al-Amiri, Secretary General of the Badr Organization, said in a March 4, 2009 press release that "the organization has been an independent political movement since its establishment and does not need to split from ISCI."

Al-Amiri added, "We have been in agreement with ISCI and the Shahid Al-Mihrab movement for a long time, ever since our exile, and our alliance with them is no different from other alliances such as the Kurdish one, which can be seen in the political arena." He stressed that no matter what happens, the alliance can never be divided and Badr and ISCI are unified on decisions and will not be shaken.

## The Open UIA is a Must: A Necessity of This Phase

Now that the local councils' elections are over with their resulting outcomes such as the formations of councils, agreements, violations and ambiguities, everyone is concentrating on studying this current phase with the sensitivities and Ba'athist influences on the government agencies, especially Security. This forms massive and serious threats and huge challenges to the political process, posing major risks, a fact that requires urgent action to take place. On its part, the ISCI leadership reviewed and evaluated this stage and reached the following facts (the most important of which are):

1-ISCI is the one party most concerned with unifying the country on the political front and consolidating its resources, all due to the fact that it feels the national responsibility and the need for finding the initiative to present the vision for unifying the moves and offering curative solutions to the problems.

2-The alliance is the framework that unifies the authentic political forces that shared the same history of fighting dictatorship. This has an utmost importance at this stage. All efforts and resources should be mobilized to bring this project to success, provided that this alliance should have an open heart to accommodate for new resources that withdrew in the past due to certain circumstances like the Al-Sadr and Al-Fadila movements. It should also be open for accepting other national forces regardless of their political or religious backgrounds.

3-The core of this prospective alliance is ISCI and Al-Dawa Party, as these two enjoy a massive popular base of mutual understanding and close experiences. The more this nucleus is coherent the stronger the alliance will be.

4-The differences between the political blocs is a fact that we cannot deny, whether theoretically or in application. There are different political points of opinion and it is impossible for all to unite under one theory or one methodology. We need to organize these differences.

5-ISCI is embarking on the formation of committees capable of envisioning what we mentioned above in addition to a committee

for bilateral communications with the party of "Al-Dawa" and the others.

-ISCI

## The Security Issue in Iraq Facts... Reasons... Solutions

Since April of 2003 the issue of security has been the major obstacle of the political process in the face of developing the nation to restore its regional status as a great country that has magnificent human and natural resources and capabilities. The security element has been affected by the internal, regional and international political situation of Iraq. This is why it has become the decisive parameter in majoring the Iraqi development economically, socially and culturally and even on the level of Iraq's relations both regionally and internationally.

In order to understand the major elements of the security issue in Iraq, we can mention the following:

### First: The Reality of The Security Issue

The security Issue in Iraq was subjected to periods of highs and lows. The official Iraqi government numbers in cooperation with the World Health Organization estimated that Iraq suffered 151,000 deaths between 2003 and late 2008. Phases of that security status can be identified as follows:

### I-The Dangerous Phase (2003-2006):

During this time, Iraq, as a whole, was subjected to the most dangerous phase as a devastating sectarian civil war was about to break if it were not for large consolidated efforts that were able to defuse that crisis. The Iraqi people suffered huge losses estimated by government official numbers as 104,223 deaths between 2003 and 2006. The climax of this was in 2006 as it was reported by 125 agencies working under the umbrella of "Iraq without violence." They reported that between April 15 and July 15 of 2006, the number of casualties reached 12,973 including those who were kidnapped and their whereabouts still unknown. Among those victims were 8,329 men, 3,195 women and 1,449 children. The survey network also recorded that 20,349 families were displaced. The report mentioned that 95% of these incidents were committed by unknown perpetrators.

The prevalence of these incidents in the governorates are in order as follows:

No	Province	Accidents	Deaths	Injuries
1	Baghdad	656	5459	9757
2	Anbar	381	1961	1782
3	Diyala	358	1813	1953
4	Basra	285	748	993
5	Babil	186	456	689
6	Kirkuk	109	472	673
7	Salahudin	102	379	488
8	Najaf	98	193	281
9	Dhi Qar	95	279	316
10	Karbala	94	223	357
11	Muthanna	88	226	437
12	Mosul	81	213	395
13	Wasit	78	171	361
14	Diwaniya	67	197	217
15	Maysan	65	179	235
16	Sulaimani	1	1	2
17	Arbil	1	1	4
18	Duhok	1	2	3

**II-The Control Phase:** Together with the Iraqi government, the US forces started implementing new law in Feb. 2006. Fifty thousand Iraqi security forces and 35,000 US soldiers took part, which coincided with closing the Iraqi borders with Syria and Iran for a period of 72 hours. It involved dividing the area of Baghdad into 10 security zones. The police and army were given major authority, which caused a great decline in casualties. It brought the number of casualties from 4,000 between Dec. 06 and Jan. 07 to about 500 in May 07. The statistics after applying the new security control law revealed the following figures:

- 1) The number of displaced families reached 273,597 families, with the average being 5 members in each. The governorate of Diyala witnessed the highest number of incidents in 2007, while Baghdad was brought back to fifth.
- 2) The incidents in 2007 were divided between kidnappings, threats, intended sabotage, family displacements, suicidal operations, mortar attacks, haphazard firings, killings and breaking & entering. This includes random killings by occupation forces, Iraqi forces, and armed groups.
- 3) Thirty-five percent of these incidents were recorded against Iraqi forces; 25% against multi national forces; 40% against

armed groups. It was also recorded that 65% of those violent attacks were due to sectarian clashes. This phase ended by transferring to relative stability.

**III-The "Sensitive Stability" Phase:** The beginning of 2008 saw marks of progress and enhancement in security, and this phase continued until April 2009, which witnessed a state of order and saw the return of many emigrants. The citizens of Iraq could definitely feel the existence of security and stability throughout the different parts of Iraq. The most important effects of this can be summarized as follows:

- 1-The end of the phenomenon of murder between different parties and displacement in Baghdad, after the passing of a year from the beginning of the application of law.
- 2-The victims of terrorism in Iraq fell from 958 in Jan. 07 to only 16 in Jan. 08.
- 3-The incidences of car bombs dropped from 50 to only 7.
- 4-The numbers of injuries from terrorist activities dropped from 2,200 to only 50.
- 5-The number of unidentified corpses in various areas of Baghdad dropped from 989 cases in Jan. 07 to 19 in Jan 08.
- 6-The security forces and police were able to reduce the incidents of car bomb attacks by 90%, bombs down by 80%, and homicides by 70%.
- 7-The Ministry of Emigration reported that as a result of implementation of the law, around 10,000 families returned to their original homes, most of them in Baghdad.
- 8-In the beginning of 2009, there was a 90% reduction in violent acts.
- 9-The later days of March and April 2009 witnessed an increase in the number of terrorist acts, around 10 suicide missions, causing the deaths of 200 and the wounding of dozens more.

The most important distinctions of this phase of sensitive stability are as follows:

- 1-The success of the Iraqi-American forces in seeking out a large number of Al-Qaeda operating cells that were spread out among many sensitive areas, especially in Anbar, Diyala and Salahudin and some areas of Mosul.
- 2-The American forces were also able to strengthen the locals of the sensitive areas and enlist their help against the Al-Qaeda forces, which played a large role in

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enhancing the general security.

3-The improvements in security were reflected in the Iraqi street, and manifested in increased activity in the markets and in people moving freely in all areas, without exception.

4-A large drop in the number of foreign terrorists sneaking across the borders from neighboring countries.

5-Spring 2009 also saw a rise in terrorist activities, mainly in Iraqi women suicide missions.

The Iraqi people, during this stage, were able to breathe a sigh of relief, taste the sweetness of security, and notice the large reduction in violence. Even so, the state of security still remains sensitive and fragile, due to a number of factors which prevent it from becoming more firmly established.

## Second: The Primary Agents of Violence

The primary agents and causes of terroristic activities are as follows:

1-Armed Groups and Gangs: The American forces estimated that in 2006, there were between 8-20 thousand armed people, while Iraqi intelligence estimated the number was close to 40,000, in addition to 160 thousand supporters. However, the majority of these supporting numbers later became supporters of the political process, such as the Awakenings, and there did not remain any of the armed forces besides al-Qaeda and some Ba'athist groups.

2-Those who undertake suicide missions: the intelligence groups estimated that there occurred around 1,121 suicide missions within Iraq, and the suicide bombings killed around 13,000 people. The analysts also state that there are three primary groups who participated in these activities:

•Non-Iraqis: al-Qaeda depended mainly on non-Iraqis for suicide missions in the beginning, most of them coming from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and other Arab countries, as well as from Italy, Syria, Kuwait, Jordan, Belgium, France, Spain, and others from North and East Africa, South Asia, Central Asian countries, and European countries.

•Iraqis: This sub-group comprised 10% of suicide missions in Iraq, most of them from the Iraqi youth, and these were mainly due to being affected by the different factions

as well as due to personal and financial struggles and pressures. The Intelligence analysts also point out that there are between 5-10 thousand people who are looking to perform suicide missions, most of them coming from the armed groups.

•Females: This was a third source from which they derived participants for suicide missions, especially noticeable in the later periods. Up to the point of June 2008, there were 49 female suicide missions.

## Third: The Causes and Stimuli of Violence in the Last Periods

There are a number of stimuli to the latest increases in violence, which include:

1-Widespread unemployment in the Iraqi society, which causes depression and lack of hope, bringing some to violent acts.

2-Widespread cases of broken families with high numbers of orphans and widows and mentally retarded cases, which made these easy sources of recruitment.

3-Release of prisoners, without congruent planning between the American and local authorities.

4-More weapons being available to Iraqis, which demonstrates the importance of keeping weapons in the hands of the state.

5-The appearance of large holes and splits in a number of security forces and Awakening groups.

6-A state of complacency which recently overcame the security agencies and groups as an outcome of the previous state of increased (but fragile) security.

7-The return of armed Ba'athist forces and their increased activities, as well as more operating cells of the 'Awdah (Return Party) during late 2008 and early 2009.

8-Al-Qaeda reviving and reorganizing some of its operating cells, and employing new strategies to carry out their activities.

9-The lack of any legality for the Awakening forces, which allowed the existence and spread of rumors and internal strife among their members, leading to negative outcomes on security.

10-Some of the political representatives considered that some local military groups were behind the latest increases in violence in Iraq, for political and economic reasons.

11-Delaying of the implementation of the national reconciliation project, and the lack of execution of the laws pertaining to that,

such as those related to political reform, accountability and justice, as well as the issue of the return of the previous army cadres and Ba'athist representatives.

12-The "militarization" of the nation and the populace is also one of the stimuli of the fire of violence under the ashes, which appears during any political or social strife. The political analysts have estimated that 23% of the civilian populace of Iraq is militarized, and that in total there are around 1 million armed persons in the country.

*To be continued in next issue...*

## The Provincial Councils

The Shaheed Al-Mihrab Bloc, along with the other winners of the Provincial Council elections, especially the State of Law Coalition, sought to achieve a suitable formula to advance the Provincial Councils from their current state. This is based on two standards: that each side will take what it is entitled to, based solely on the number of seats won and that all winners will participate in the process, without exception.

We have stated previously that the Provincial Councils are a means to give aid to the people, making it essential that they are not involved in the political calculations. Despite the many violations that have been witnessed from different sides, whether subjective or objective, we insist on continuing our role in the Provincial Councils in order to give aid to the citizens of the governorates.

We are very keen on bringing a sense of cooperation between all sides, based on our belief that the current situation in the country necessitates that we do not dissipate our efforts. We have accepted the minimum of what we are entitled to so as to stress national unity and place national interest above all else.

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